

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A fixing member comprising:

a substrate surrounding an aperture configured to receive a heater;

an elastic layer including heat resistance rubber provided on the substrate, said elastic layer not including any oxidized heat resistance rubber material; and

a separation layer including fluorocarbon resin provided on said elastic layer, said elastic layer including silicone rubber and/or fluorosilicone rubber as a major component, said separation layer not including any cracks,

wherein said fluorocarbon resin has a tensile strength such that a 30  $\mu$ m coating film baked at 340°C has a tensile strength equal to or greater than 25 MPa, and

the separation layer is baked on the elastic layer, and

a baked temperature of the separation layer is ~~has~~ a temperature lower than an oxidation starting temperature of the heat resistance rubber ~~when the separation layer is baked on the elastic layer.~~

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Original): The fixing member according to Claim 1, wherein said fluorocarbon resin comprises Tetrafluoroethylene-Perfluoroalkylvinylether copolymer resin (PFA) as a major component.

Claim 4 (Original): The fixing member according to Claim 1, wherein said separation layer contains inorganic filler.

Claim 5 (Original): The fixing member according to Claim 4, wherein said inorganic filler comprises carbon.

Claim 6 (Original): The fixing member according to Claim 5, wherein a content of said carbon is from 1 mass % to 5 mass %.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The fixing member according to Claim 1, wherein said substrate is a roller made of a metal member including aluminum, stainless steel, brass, or iron.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The fixing member according to Claim 1, wherein said substrate is (a) a sheet or an endless belt made of a metal member including stainless steel, or nickel, (b) a sheet or an endless belt made of heat resistance rubber including polyimide or polyamideimide, or (c) a laminated sheet or an endless belt in which said (a) and (b) are laminated.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): An image forming apparatus comprising the fixing member according to Claim 1.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn - Currently Amended): A manufacturing method of a fixing member comprising the steps of:

forming a first primer layer by applying first primer onto a substrate surrounding an aperture configured to receive a heater;

forming an elastic layer by applying heat resistance synthetic rubber solution onto said first primer layer, said elastic layer including silicone rubber and/or fluorosilicone rubber

as a major component, said elastic layer not including any oxidized heat resistance synthetic rubber solution material;

forming a second primer layer by applying second primer onto said elastic layer;

forming a fluorocarbon resin applied layer by applying dispersion liquid or powdered paint including fluorocarbon resin with which a tensile strength of a 30  $\mu\text{m}$  coating film burned at 340°C is equal or greater than 25 MPa as a major component onto said second primer layer, said fluorocarbon resin applied layer not including any cracks; and

baking said fluorocarbon resin applied layer with a baking temperature which is equal or higher than 340°C and less than a temperature for starting oxidation of the heat resistance synthetic rubber constituting said elastic layer such that the elastic layer is not oxidized and cracks are not formed in the fluorocarbon resin applied layer.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The manufacturing method of the fixing member according to Claim 10, wherein said fluorocarbon resin comprises Tetrafluoroethylene-Perfluoroalkylvinylether copolymer resin (PFA).

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The manufacturing method of the fixing member according to Claim 10, wherein said dispersion liquid or said powdered paint contains inorganic filler.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The manufacturing method of the fixing member according to Claim 13, wherein said inorganic filler comprises a carbon.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The manufacturing method of the fixing member according to Claim 14, wherein a content of said carbon is from 1 mass % to 5 mass %.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): The manufacturing method of the fixing member according to Claim 10, wherein said substrate is a roller made of a metal member including aluminum, stainless still, brass, or iron.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The manufacturing method of the fixing member according to Claim 10, wherein said substrate is (a) a sheet or an endless belt made of a metal member including stainless still or nickel, (b) a sheet or an endless belt made of a metal member including polyimide or polyamideimide, or (c) a laminated sheet or an endless belt in which said (a) and (b) are laminated.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn - Currently Amended): A manufacturing method of an image forming apparatus comprising the steps of:

forming a first primer layer by applying first primer onto a substrate surrounding an aperture configured to receive a heater;

forming an elastic layer by applying heat resistance synthetic rubber solution onto said first primer layer, said elastic layer including silicone rubber and/or fluorosilicone rubber as a major component, said elastic layer not including any oxidized heat resistance synthetic rubber solution material;

forming a second primer layer by applying second primer onto said elastic layer;

forming a fluorocarbon resin applied layer by applying dispersion liquid or powdered paint including fluorocarbon resin with which a tensile strength of a 30  $\mu\text{m}$  coating film

burned at 340°C is equal or greater than 25 MPa as a major component onto said second primer layer, said fluorocarbon resin applied layer not including any cracks;

baking said fluorocarbon resin applied layer with a baking temperature which is equal or higher than 340°C and less than a temperature for starting oxidation of the heat resistance synthetic rubber constructing said elastic layer such that the elastic layer is not oxidized and cracks are not formed in the fluorocarbon resin applied layer; and

incorporating the fixing member obtained by said steps into an image forming apparatus.